



US Army Corps of Engineers

Team New Orleans

Stakeholder Update

BUILDING STRONG®

November 9, 2009

From the desk of New Orleans District Commander Col. Al Lee

What a strange hurricane season it has been. Hurricane Ida is the first Atlantic hurricane to target the United States this year even though it is the Atlantic region's ninth named storm. On average, one tropical storm forms in November every other year, and we can expect a November hurricane about one year in five. Only about 5 percent of all Atlantic tropical storm activity occurs after November 1.

Earlier today we dropped the gates at the London Avenue Canal as a result of water reaching the operational trigger of 2.5 feet and rising. The gates take less than an hour to close and, once closed, we can begin pumping water from the canal into the lake to maintain the safe water elevation of 5 feet.

We continually rehearse our emergency operation procedures to be prepared to respond at any time. Closing the gates at London today will reduce risk for the New Orleans area by allowing the Sewerage and Water Board to maximize their pumping capacity and maintaining a safe water elevation in the canal. The other canal teams are on standby and ready to close if the need arises.

As we monitor the situation, we will continue to maintain contact with all of our partners, including Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority (SLFPA) East and West, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, parish emergency operations centers in the 13 coastal parishes and the Coast Guard.

Corps liaison officers (LNOs) have been in contact with their respective Offices of Emergency Preparedness and will be stationed today in Plaquemines, Lafourche and St. Tammany parishes as well as with the Coast Guard, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and SLFPA-W. All other LNOs are on standby, pending their parish's request.

Additionally, we are securing all ongoing construction sites in preparation for any high winds or heavy rains that we may see overnight. While we don't anticipate a severe threat, the Corps remains vigilant and prepared.

And of course this ongoing construction is work we are doing to complete the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) by June 1, 2011. Every day we make major progress toward that goal – a complete risk reduction system for the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area. We are awarding more and more contracts. Construction is progressing all over the region. It can be difficult to keep track of all the work being done.

So as we get closer to the peak of construction for the system, I have decided to send out periodic updates on the protection and restoration projects to all the stakeholders. You may receive a similar product from Task Force Hope and the Hurricane Protection Office, but this update will focus on Jefferson and St. Charles parishes and West Bank projects specifically – including Plaquemines Parish. We will do our best to keep this brief and up-to-date with photos of the ongoing construction. I hope you find it a valuable update on the key projects that the Corps is working on every day.

I have one final thought before I go. I want to take a moment to wish all those currently serving and all those who have previously served in the military a happy and healthy Veterans Day. It is my privilege to work alongside individuals like you everyday. Thank you for your honor, your courage, and your sacrifice.



Shared responsibilities & strong partnerships equal reduced risk for the entire West Bank.

The Protection and Restoration Office held a ceremony Friday, October 30 to recognize the ongoing construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex. Key stakeholders, partners, and members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on hand to celebrate the progress to date and to emphasize the importance of continuing partnership.

The GIWW West Closure Complex is the keystone risk reduction feature for the west bank of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. This project removes over 25 miles of levees, floodwalls, pump stations, and gates from the front line of defense against storm surges. When complete, the project will feature an enormous pump station, a navigable structure, levees, and floodwalls. Construction of this risk reduction feature began in August 2009 by a joint venture formed specifically for this project, Gulf Intracoastal Constructors.

Current status:

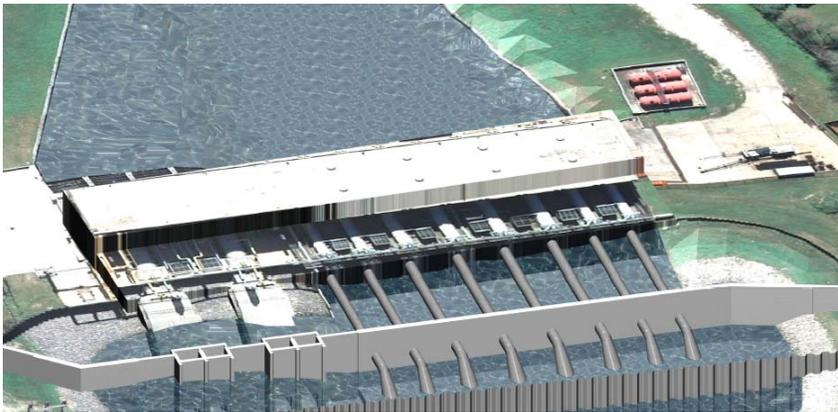
- 310 employees on site and at the peak of construction, there will be over 600 including sub-contractors.
- Construction of the batch plant is complete. This project will use approx. 180,000 cubic yards of concrete. The plant will produce approx. 1,500 cubic yards of concrete on an average day, with the capacity to produce 8,000 cubic yards in a 24-hour period.
- 330,000 cubic yards of dirt will be removed to prepare for the pump station. Currently three excavators are being used (two are specially equipped for ground pressure/swamp excavating).
- 1,375 of the 137' long 30" pipe piles will be used for the pump station. Four cranes are being used for this work—two are 2250/300 ton cranes outfitted with leads and pile hammers.
- There are two barge mounted cranes on site for pile driving 54" pipe and sheet pile for the combination wall-cofferdam.
- Construction of the new Bayou Road is underway.
- Test piles have been driven to provide load information for the final design of the foundations to be completed.

Right: Piles being driven for the pump station foundation **Left:** Representative Cao before the ceremony with GIC executives and Maj. Gen. Temple & Col. Lee

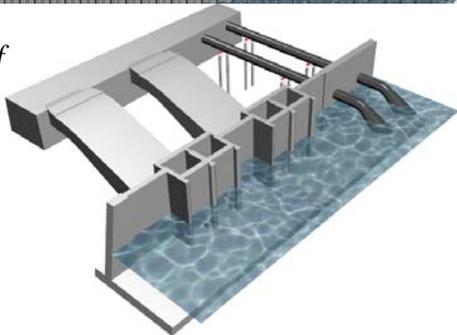


Above: Federal, state and local partners gathered to celebrate the progress being made on the West Closure Complex
Below left: Excavation underway for construction of the pump station **Below right:** Maj. Gen. Bo Temple, deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, was ceremony's Key note speaker





Conceptual renderings of fronting protection



Contract awarded for approx. \$195 M for East Jefferson fronting protection

On Friday, November 6, 2009, the Protection & Restoration Office awarded a contract that will ensure that a continuous line of risk reduction is present at each of the four pump stations on the east bank of Jefferson Parish to reduce risk for residences and businesses. The contract, awarded for approximately \$195 million to Kiewit Louisiana Co., will construct fronting protection at the Duncan, Elmwood, Suburban, and Bonnabel pump stations.

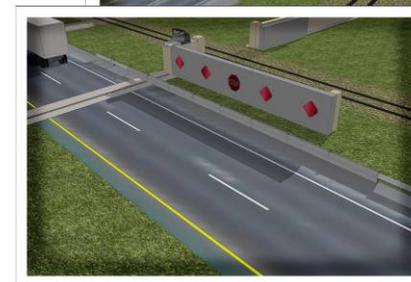
Fronting protection is an important feature for the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity portion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Fronting protection is designed to protect the pump stations from storm surge and associated waves, as well as to prevent any water from backflowing through the pump station.

Construction will consist of placing T-walls in front of the pump station and the extension of the pump discharge tubes through the floodwall. Valves or gates will also be constructed to prevent any water from backflowing through the pumps. The fronting protection features will tie in to the existing risk reduction features on either side of the pump station.

Environmental Report 13 addendum released

Over the past two years the Corps has hosted more than 100 public meetings in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and incorporate public feedback into the design of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. On 5 Nov 09, my team again engaged with citizens from Plaquemines Parish to discuss the proposed action for the Eastern Tie In project as it was discussed in draft Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum. The Eastern Tie In project, once complete, will connect the West Bank and Vicinity levees to the Mississippi River levees in Plaquemines Parish.

The environmental document answered substantive comments community members had voiced earlier this year about the Corps' proposed action, which after thorough re-evaluations, confirmed that the most effective way to reduce risk to the Belle Chase sub-basin is construction of a higher and stronger earthen levee along the Hero Canal and construction of a steel swing gate in the Oakville, La. area. Our team assessed each of the four alternatives under consideration to cross the highway for risk and reliability, impacts to the human and natural environment, time and constructability, costs, and operations and maintenance, the swing gate is the most reliable system feature. From a risk and reliability standpoint, and operations and maintenance standpoint, this alternative is clearly superior to the others considered on this project.



Conceptual renderings of a swing gate



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